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Acting Chief Deputy

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 909
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.lapublichealth.org

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TO: Program Directors

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D. M.P.H. *JE Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TOOL KIT

As public health professionals and residents of the LA County region, we are all aware of the air pollution that plagues our communities. The 2005 *State of the Air* report by the American Lung Association ranked the air in Los Angeles County metropolitan region as the worst air in the country. One significant source of air pollution is vehicular traffic. Research indicates there is a direct link between this form of air pollution and our health; therefore, in order to reduce the level of air pollution in LA County we need to decrease the amount of traffic.

As Public Health employees, we should strive to do our part to make the air cleaner. There are a variety of ways we can do this, including ridesharing to and from work and for meetings during the whole day. Ridesharing includes taking public transportation (bus and rail), carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking, or telecommuting. I encourage each of you to assess the needs of you and your staff and find what methods work the best.

In order to further promote public transportation within your program, I have enclosed an educational toolkit that focuses on making public transportation more accessible and user-friendly for your program. It includes:

- An introductory flyer that highlights the benefits of taking public transit and gives staff an idea of how they can access information on using public transportation.
- A frequent destinations flyer that lists locations that staff routinely travel to and how to get there using public transportation. This template flyer can be tailored to make it program/worksites-specific by including destinations that your staff frequents.
- A flyer containing a list of practical ideas on how you as a program manager can make your office public transportation-friendly, and change the culture in the office from car-centered to public transportation-oriented.
- An air pollution fact sheet that shows the link between air pollution and health.

I encourage you to tailor the toolkit to the needs of your employees and worksite. If you have any questions regarding the toolkit or would like help making it specific for your program and/or worksite, please contact Maxanne Hatch at mhatch@ph.lacounty.gov.

I appreciate your efforts to make the air in Los Angeles cleaner by promoting ridesharing and the use of public transportation. Through the small changes we make, we can have a great impact!

JEF:CAH:rk

Enclosures